



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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**TWO DEL RIO MEN INDICTED ON 19 COUNTS OF FEDERAL BRIBERY AND
FRAUD CHARGES**

(Del Rio, Texas) **U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that **Jose Luis Hinojosa** and **Ruben Victor Leal**, both of Del Rio, Texas, were indicted and arrested on charges of Conspiracy to Commit Bribery, Conspiracy to Defraud and making False, Fictitious and Fraudulent Claims. This morning, Defendants made their initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Dennis Green.

Defendant **Leal**, is a United States Postal Service (USPS) Delivery Service Supervisor, who is tasked with ensuring that USPS delivery vehicles are properly serviced and maintained. Defendant, **Hinojosa**, operates a vehicle repair business, known as, Joe's Auto Service. The indictment alleges that beginning in March 1998, and continuing through December 31, 2002, **Hinojosa** and **Leal** conspired to defraud the USPS by and through Defendant **Leal** who verbally contracted with Joe's Auto Service to maintain and repair the fleet of vehicles at the Bedell USPS Station located in Del Rio, Texas. The scheme was carried out when **Hinojosa** would submit invoices for payment for work not performed and invoices with inflated labor charges for work performed.

The indictment further alleges, that **Leal** authorized USPS payments to Joe's Auto Service for approximately \$230,000 without verifying what if any maintenance work had been done on the USPS vehicles and approximately \$70,000 for inflated labor costs. Additionally, **Leal** never verified that vehicle parts alleged to have been replaced were in fact replaced.

Each defendant has been charged with one count of Conspiracy to Commit Bribery which carries a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine, one count of Conspiracy to Defraud, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine and seventeen counts of making False, Fictitious, and Fraudulent claims which carries a 10 year maximum imprisonment and \$250,000 fine for each count.

This case was investigated by the United States Postal Service - Office of Inspector General and is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Arrambide.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.